

TOP SECRET

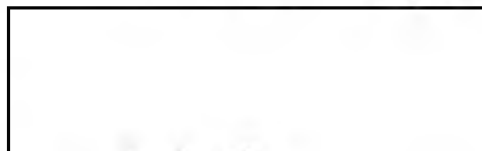
19 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to DD/I (NSC and National Estimates)
THROUGH: Deputy Director/Support
SUBJECT: NSC 5520

1. In line with our telephone conversation this morning, I am returning herewith the various papers concerning NSC 5520. A careful review of these papers does not, in any way, change the position expressed by OSI in our memoranda to the DCI of 10 April 1956. We are, of course, in complete sympathy with Dr. Waterman's position expressing the scientific requirement for a 12-satellite program. We feel, however, that the Agency interests are limited to (1) the psychological aspects, and (2) the impact of the NSC 5520 program on the development of a true advanced reconnaissance satellite. On the basis of these two factors, we feel that the Agency can do no more than support the more limited program of 6 satellites suggested in Secretary Wilson's letter.

2. We have recently heard unofficially that on the basis of three study contracts, Air Force has already, or is about to let, a development contract for the Advanced Reconnaissance System to be managed by the Western Development Division, ARDC, which is the Air Force unit in charge of the IREM and the ICBM programs of the Air Force. While the last paragraph of Secretary Wilson's letter may be somewhat ambiguous on the point, it has been the feeling of many people concerned with the concept of an advanced reconnaissance satellite that the research results of Project Vanguard, particularly in the problem of putting a vehicle on orbit, would materially advance the more sophisticated program.

3. It is my understanding that when the original Agency contribution was made to the NSC 5520 program, the Bureau of the Budget ruled that this was the full extent to which the Agency could contribute.



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F. G. STRONG

Deputy Assistant Director/Collection
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure:

Memo for NSC dated April 13, 1956 (w/enclosures)
Approved For Release 2003/08/04 : CIA-RDP86B01053R000100060039-7

CIA Control No. TS 115690

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